

Jim Doyle  
Governor

Reggie Bicha  
Secretary



**State of Wisconsin**  
Department of Children and Families

201 East Washington Avenue, Room G200  
P.O. Box 8916  
Madison, WI 53708-8916

Telephone: 608-267-3905  
Fax: 608-266-6836  
[dcf.wisconsin.gov](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov)

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Contact: Erika Monroe-Kane, Department of Children and Families, 608-266-9000

## **Governor Proclaims June as Fathers Make a Difference Month**

Recognizing the importance of fathers in the lives of Wisconsin's children, Governor Jim Doyle officially proclaimed June as Fathers Make a Difference Month. Throughout the month, the Department of Children and Families will highlight some of the many events that celebrate fathers and the positive impact they have on their families and their communities.

"Whether he is giving an infant a safe home, helping a school-age daughter with a book report, or teaching a teenage son about responsibility, a father plays an essential role in every family," Governor Doyle said. "No matter how many people may influence children, the guidance, support and love provided by dads will stay with kids throughout their lives."

The importance of fathers goes well beyond providing basic needs or financial support for their children. Kids whose fathers play an active role in their lives are more likely to graduate from high school, more likely to pursue a college education and less likely to abuse drugs or alcohol. Conversely, children who do not have active relationships with their fathers are more likely to engage in negative behaviors both as kids and adults.

A father's influence is particularly critical for children under the age of three. These kids learn and develop primarily through play, and fathers spend more time engaging their children in play than any other adults in a child's life.

"We officially celebrate dads on the third Sunday in June, but throughout the month, we're shining a light on the many rewards awaiting fathers who connect with their children," DCF Secretary Reggie Bicha said. "Children, mothers and fathers themselves benefit when the bond between dad and child is strengthened."

This Father's Day will mark the 100-year anniversary of the holiday in America.

Today in Wisconsin more than one in every four children grows up in a single-parent household. Twenty-one percent of children are raised by single mothers.

For more information on Fathers Make a Difference Month, please visit the Department of Children and Families website at [www.dcf.wisconsin.gov](http://www.dcf.wisconsin.gov).

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